



## RTCA in Missouri

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Missouri offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Missouri will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Blue River Strategic Conservation** – The project goal is to develop a community education and engagement strategy by which to identify and outline specific, achievable projects to meet partner goals and help re-connect communities to the Blue River. (Location: Johnson County, Kansas to Kansas City, Missouri)
- **Mississippi River Connections Collaborative/Geotourism** – The project goal is to increase recognition of America's Great River, enhance the existing resources, acquire funding for conservation and development, and ensure that all Americans can enjoy these assets in the future. (Location: Mississippi River, from its headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico)

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca), or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Missouri contact:

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